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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caltrans to Begin Emergency Roadwork

REDDING -- The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will begin emergency roadwork on State Route 89 in Siskiyou County from the Shasta/Siskiyou County line to McCloud. An emergency request for funding of this \$4.2 million project will go before the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for approval on April 7, 2004.

Caltrans is seeking funding for the full rehabilitation of this highway segment, which is estimated at \$35 million, and will also include the addition of a minimum of 4-foot shoulders. The emergency project is a stop gap measure until funding for the full rehabilitation can be secured, which local Caltrans officials hope will be by 2010.

"Regardless of the funding approval for the rehabilitation project, Caltrans will maintain the highway within the limitations of its general maintenance budget" said Russ Wenham, Deputy District Director of Maintenance and Operations. "This particular stretch of highway has seen an increase in travel to an average annual daily traffic count of 2,000 vehicles per day. With the recreation season approaching, that count is expected to increase and the roadway is in vast need of rehabilitation" added Wenham. The adjacent roadway segments on Route 89 from Route 299 to the Shasta/Siskiyou County line have all been funded for rehabilitation. The first project from Lake Britton Bridge to the Siskiyou County line will begin construction later this summer.

This project will include grinder digouts of the roadway and the installation of approximately 2 inches of asphalt concrete. Work is expected to begin the first part of May with work continuing through July and will be conducted during the regular work week, Monday through Friday during daylight hours. Up to 15-minutes delays are expected during construction.

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NOTE: An electronic version of this news release is available on the internet at the following web address: http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/news_releases.htm